

# East Kingston 2010-2011 School Budget



## Election Day

Date & Time	Event
3/9/2010 8:00 AM - 7 PM	Election Day at East Kingston Elementary School

## What is Being Voted on in the School Budget?

We hope you had a chance to attend the Deliberative Session held in East Kingston on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the school budget or to attend one of the three citizen meetings hosted by the School Board.

If not, you still have the final say on the school budget with your vote on March 9th or via your absentee ballot.

In the Deliberative Session, residents of East Kingston voted unanimously to place two Warrant Articles for the East Kingston School board on the March Ballot.

These two Warrant Articles address important items: The East Kingston Elementary School Annual Operating Budget and the East Kingston Elementary School Teachers Contract.

The purpose of this newsletter is to help the voters of East Kingston understand the proposed 2010 - 2011 school budget and the school teachers contract. Communities annually make an investment in the education of the children of East Kingston. Because of the importance of and expenses related to education, it is imperative that school officials make sure voters know what they are voting for.



# Proposed Budget Fast Facts

What will this budget pay for?

1. The Warrant Article proposes a 1.35% decrease over 2009-2010 budget.

2. There is a 0% increase in Teachers salaries for budget year 2010-2011. This is reflected in Warrant Article 2 below as a result of the collective bargaining process.

3. Administrative and support salaries reflect a nominal increase of 1.9%, below the rate of inflation.

4. Costs of Benefits and Retirement costs have continued to increase. Despite the cost containment efforts district-wide, benefits such as health, dental, life and accident will grow by 11.3% over the 2009-2010 budget

5. The School's operating budget for Transportation will increase by 2.3% under the proposed budget.

6. The 2010-2011 budget reflects the retirement of debt service on building improvements that will relieve the school of \$100,000 in annual bond repayments.



## The 2010-2011 Proposed Budget of East Kingston Elementary School

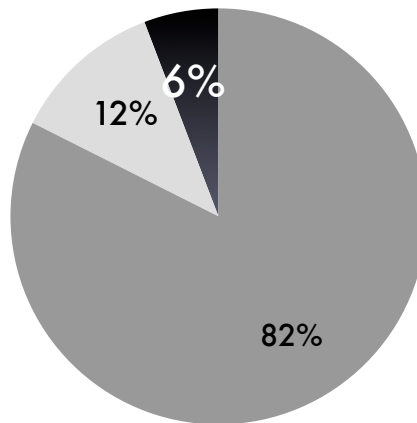
Your taxes pay for the education of our children. This is a worthy investment, but one that must be made prudently and keeping in mind our educational goals.

The proposed budget for East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) is \$2,521,570 compared to last year's budget of \$2,556,195, a 1.35% decrease.

So what do these funds pay for? As you can see in the chart below, very little in the 2010-2011 budget is discretionary. Salaries and benefits alone account for 82.4% of the proposed budget. The non-discretionary funds, which are required by existing contracts and state and federal requirements include:

- \$1,064,965 for teacher salaries
- \$424,700 for administrative and support salaries
- \$590,445 for benefits
- \$57,885 for SAU services
- \$57,885 for non-salary special education obligations
- \$84,336 for student transportation

- \$60,227 for utilities and insurance
- \$48,000 for food service



- Salary & Benefits
- Non-discretionary
- Discretionary

Five percent of the budget represents those funds that the school board and administration have discretion over not including personnel. This includes classroom supplies, library books, technology upgrades, and professional development. For example, each teacher is allocated \$1,000 each year for curriculum programming and classroom consumables. Additionally, \$6,000 (.24% of the overall budget) is allocated for professional development for the entire school.

As a result, changes to discretionary items in the budget results in relatively little savings for taxpayers. With this in mind, the school board and administration work very hard to make prudent, fiscally-responsible decisions when constructing the budget.

## East Kingston Elementary Teachers' Contract

This past year representatives from the East Kingston Teachers Association and the School Board met to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement. The prior contract period was 5 years and is set to expire on June 30, 2010.

The economic outlook was very different in 2005 than it is today. The state of NH today has an unemployment rate of just under 8% and the national average is 9.9%. In 2005 the outlook was a 3% NH unemployment and a national rate of under 5%.

With those realities in mind, the EKTA and the Board agreed to a two year contract with 0% increase to the base salary in year one and a 2.25% increase in year two. These percentages are below the increases of the last 5 year contract.

In an effort to still provide quality health care at more affordable costs, two measures were agreed upon. First, an "opt out" incentive designed to encourage teachers to utilize the health care benefits of their spouses, and in the year two, the school district will be obligated to a lower contribution toward health care costs.

The School Board and the East Kingston Teachers Association support the agreement.

## 2009-2010 School Warrant Articles

The warrant is the list of items (articles) that require a vote of registered voters. Below, are the school district articles for the 2010-2011 school year. The school board is required by law to make a recommendation to the voters on each warrant article that involves an expenditure of funds. These recommendations are found at the end of the formal article.

### Article S-1:

"Shall the school district raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,521,570? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,503,207 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the school district, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only." (Majority vote required).\* The School Board recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

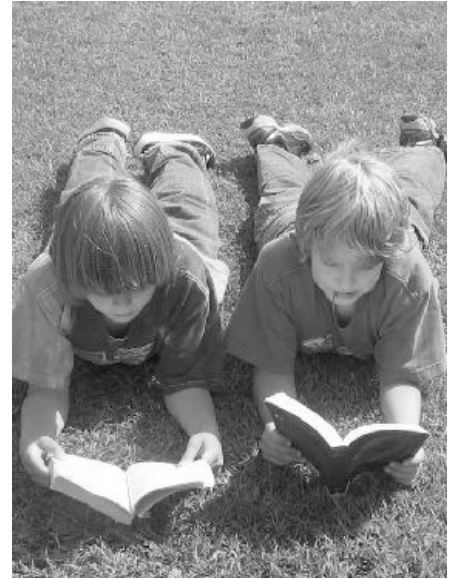
NOTE: This Warrant Article (operating budget) does NOT include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles.

### ARTICLE S-2:

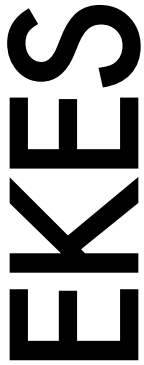
"Shall the District enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the East Kingston Teacher's Association (the union representing the teachers in the District School) covering a two year period from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2012, and approve the cost items included therein containing in summary: a 0% increase in the salary schedule for 2010-2011 school year and a 2.25% increase in salary schedule for 2011-2012 school year so that the approximate increase in the cost of teacher salaries and salary related expenses because of this agreement and step increases for each of the two years (subject to change resulting from changes in the number of and in the educational degrees and years of experience of teachers employed) over the preceding year will be: \$11,946 for the 2010-2011 year, and \$38,837 for the 2011-2012 year.

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,946 for the 2010-2011 year, representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in the salaries and salary related benefits over those included as part of Article I, the 2010-2011 budget.

The School Board recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.



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Do you have more questions about the EKES budget? Contact one of these individuals or visit [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org).

Bob Nigrello  
Chair - School Board  
394-7591

Tim Law  
School Board  
380-3065

Mike Morgan  
Superintendent  
775-8700

Stacy Penna  
School Board  
778-6951

Jim Eaves  
Principal - EKES  
642-3511

Tony Baldasaro  
Asst. Superintendent  
775-8655



**From the Desk of Jim Eaves, Principal**

One of the core values of our school community is to strive to make decisions based upon what is in the best interest of our students. We believe an effective instructional environment encourages the free flow of information, and promotes ongoing dialogue, questioning and collaboration. Effective instruction is built upon a foundation of dedication, preparedness and thorough knowledge of subject matter.

These same values and principles can also be found in the School Board's and administration's efforts to bring forward to East Kingston taxpayers a budget proposal that is fiscally responsible, supports understanding and dialogue in the community, and sustains the best interests of our students. The difficult

economic climate along with the recent adoption of the Senate Bill Two (SB2) budget approval process makes it more imperative than ever that we communicate openly and effectively so that you as voters understand how the SB2 process works, and what it is you will be voting on when you go to the polls on March 9, 2010. We encourage you to embrace the values and principles we are working to teach our children. Take time to understand the SB2 process. Learn about the school's goals, and the proposed budget requested to accomplish these outcomes. Ask questions of the School Board and the administration, and talk with your neighbors so that you can make informed decisions when you go to the polls. Be a role model for the children of East Kingston. They are counting on you.